

FEDERAL DOCUMENTS

In 1998, the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Justice distributed the document *Early Warning, Timely Response* to schools and communities across the country to help them make their schools even safer than they were already. The guide provided research-based, practical help needed to help them fulfill this mission.

Two years later, in the Spring, 2000, based on recommendations from recipients of the “Early Warning Guide,” the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice developed and disseminated a second document entitled, *Safeguarding Our Children: An Action Guide*. The *Action Guide*, the “how to” for *Early Warning, Timely Response*, helps schools develop their school safety plans.

Although every school district in Iowa should have received this informative pair of documents, the time that separated their distribution may also have separated them in the minds and use of schools and communities. The guides provide a framework of sound practices invaluable to ensuring that schools are safe. For this reason, they are placed together in context in this handbook so that they can meet the purposes for which they were developed and can serve as a ready resource for school leaders in the development and implementation of plans to make their schools safe.